

incorrect, in fact, factually so incorrect that he knows that. He knows that the student loan program is going from \$24 to \$36 billion.

Now what we did do to save money is, we got rid of the direct student loan program. This was a government student program that, basically, we tied it down by getting rid of it? No, we clamped it down to 10 percent of all student loans. That is what we did, and this is a direct student loan program that the administration tried to tell us was cheaper than doing it through the banks.

The only problem was they had not factored in all the people that the government had to hire to manage the student loans. So when you had a local college give a direct student loan by-passing the bank, you would think it would save money. But then who had to administer that student loan? You got it, the Federal Government, and the Federal Government did it with twice as many people as the banks and at twice the cost.

So we just simply said, we have got to make sure we do not get too deep into that program because it is going to be so expensive that we are going to be spending more on administrative costs than we should. We saved billions of dollars by slowing and condensing that program. We did try and failed. We did try and failed to say that from graduation to the first 6 months, when you do not pay back the loan yet, your grace period, the taxpayers pay the interest on that loan. We said the students should.

I am proud of the fact that we asked students to play a role in this process. Six months after they graduate they start paying back their 10-year or 15-year loan. In a basic 10-year loan, for the average loan, we were asking the students to pay \$9 more a month. That is the price of a pizza. But where I live, it is the price of a movie and a small Coke. I have no problem saying to someone after they graduated from college or graduate school, 6 months after they graduate, they start to pay the loan back. It costs them \$9 more a month.

I have no problem saying you do not have to go to a movie maybe once a month. You may not be going to get that pizza, for the good of the country, so you do not have to pay a big debt later on.

We are trying to get our financial house in order. It ends with the two points: Medicaid has grown from \$89 to \$127 billion. Again, only in Washington when you go from \$89 to \$127 billion do people call it a "cut," but my colleagues on the other side of the aisle call it a "cut." It is a significant increase in spending, and then, as I have already pointed out, Medicare is growing from \$178 billion to \$289 billion, \$4,800 per senior to \$7,100 per senior.

Mr. Speaker, you have been very patient. I am drawing to a close. My biggest concern of all is that I have colleagues on this side of the aisle who

have done some very, very heavy lifting. They have put, in a sense, their political careers on the line for the good of the country.

We were told early on, when we got elected, the best way to get reelected is to avoid controversy, controversy is conceived as the enemy of the incumbent. We had a freshman class and a number of senior members and rank and file members of this conference that said, I do not want to be back if being back means we continue to allow the country to go bankrupt, if coming back means we ignore saving Medicare from bankruptcy, because, remember now, the President vetoed our Medicare plan.

He vetoed it last year when we thought the plan was going to go bankrupt by the year 2002. Now we know it is going to go bankrupt by the end of the year 2000. We know we are losing \$22 million a day in Medicare, we are losing \$36 billion next year, projected, and \$60 billion the year after that, every day.

Who is going to deal with that problem? Are my colleagues on the other side of the aisle going to do that kind of heavy lifting? How could they possibly when they demagogue? How can they possibly do that if they simply oppose getting our financial house in order and balancing the budget and taking on the tough decisions?

And so, Mr. Speaker, I just would like to end with the basic concept that the people we love the most, the people we care about the most, we try to teach them to grow the seed and to be better Americans. We try to free them up to compete in a very competitive environment. We try to help those who cannot help themselves, but not help those who can help themselves. Those that can help themselves need to be encouraged to be on their own, to work and to study and to grow as individuals.

This Congress has taken on heavy lifting, and I hope and pray, whether they are Republicans or Democrats, I will say it this way: Those who have done the heavy lifting, those who have dealt squarely with the problems, those who have not demagogued the issues, those who have tried to serve this country with courage, those are the people who should be reelected and returned here; and if those are the people who are defeated, think of what the message will be. Those who survive, who were doing the heavy lifting, will say: "I had better not do that again," and those who were critical of this heavy lifting, those who may demagogue the issue, are in there saying, "Well, I had better just continue what I am doing," and that unfortunately is what has happened for the last 20 years.

This is a crossroad in our country. I hope, I pray, that the true story will get out about the extraordinary job this Congress has done. We passed congressional accountability, we pass gift ban, we passed lobby disclosure, we

passed the line item veto, we passed not imposing expenditures on local governments and State governments, the so-called unfunded mandate, bill, we passed welfare reform. We have changed welfare as we know it; it happened under our watch because of what we did. We have passed major changes in health care. We have passed the telecom bill that will create 3 million jobs. We passed the Freedom to Farm bill. There are just so many other bills, the immigration bill that we hope to pass before we adjourn, and we have helped get our country's financial house in order.

I have never ever been more proud to be part of this institution.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. SCHROEDER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATERS, for 60 minutes, today

(The following Member (at the request of Mr. SHAYS) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. WOLF, for 5 minutes on September 24.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Member (at the request of Mrs. SCHROEDER) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. MENENDEZ.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SHAYS) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. BLUMENAUER.

Mr. BONO.

Mr. DINGELL.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled bills and a joint resolution of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1772. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire certain interests in the Waihee Marsh for Inclusion in the Oahu National Wildlife Refuge Complex;

H.R. 2909. An act to amend the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Act to provide that the Secretary of the Interior may acquire lands for purposes of that Act only by donation or exchange, or otherwise with the consent of the owner of the lands;

H.R. 3675. An act making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes;

H.R. 3676. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the intent of Congress